

Minutes of the Public Works Committee - July 29, 2004

Chair Manke called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chair Richard Manke, County Board Supervisors James Behrend, Hank Carlson, Peter Gundrum, Karl Nilson, David Swan; **Absent:** Rodell Singert

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisors Dave Krahn and Mark Mader, Legis.Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Public Works Director Rich Bolte, Sr. Civil Engineer Paul Barthel, Director of Administration Norm Cummings, Co.Exec. Chief of Staff Allison Bussler, Airport Manager Keith Markano, Airport Commission Chair Ray Perry, Budget Specialist Linda Witkowski

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-035 Establishment of Speed Zone County Trunk Highway "E" (Ordinance tabled at meeting of 7/13/04)

Motion: Swan moved, second by Behrend, to take Ordinance 159-O-035 off the table. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Barthel explained the ordinance, which will rescind the 55 mph speed limit and establish a 45 mph speed zone on CTH "E" from its intersection with South Shore Drive southerly to the Waukesha County line. He stated there was a speed study done and the 50th percentile speed is 44 mph; the average speed is actually 43 mph. The 85th percentile speed is 54 mph. However, in looking at the bell curve the majority of the traffic is traveling at 36 to 45 mph. Therefore, Barthel feels the appropriate speed is 45 mph. Barthel showed a few pictures of the area to better explain the issues.

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Carlson, to approve Ordinance 159-O-035.

Nilson asked when was the 50th percentile adopted? Barthel said they've been going between the 50th and 85th percentile. The State has moving toward the 50th percentile also. Nilson agrees to be consistent the speed should be 45 mph. However, Nilson said the national safety standard recommends the 85th percentile, and that's what people are driving on this section of Highway E. If the speed limit is lowered to 45 mph, people will be ripe for the radar trap. It's stupid to have speed limits that people are ignoring. It's anarchy out there. People will drive whatever they feel like which is 65 mph.

Behrend said he doesn't like speed limits either but because he drove on Highway E years ago, he feels that 45 mph was appropriate because of the condition of the road. Also, for consistency it should be 45 mph, and therefore he will support it.

To Swan's question, Barthel replied that it is his goal to have more consistent speed limits throughout the county. Carlson, Gundrum and Manke all said they will support the ordinance. Nilson added with all that consistency, you'll have all the speed limits being consistently ignored. **Motion carried 5 – 1; Nilson voting no.**

Consider Proposed Resolution: 159-R-007 Support for Creating a New Department of Emergency Preparedness and Transfer Airport to Public Works

Cummings, Bussler and Bolte were present to discuss the resolution. **Motion:** Behrend moved, second by Carlson, to approve Resolution 159-R-007. This resolution will combine three separate

but related county operating divisions (Consolidated Dispatch; Radio Services; and Emergency Management) into one new department and combine Airport operations into the Public Works Department. With the growth of the Airport, combining airport operations with the Public Works Department will provide more overall direction, support services, greater resources to obtain more efficient and cost effective services and reduce risk in the current three person Airport Operations Department.

Bussler stated she recently was at a training session in Maryland for a week of training with the federal government's emergency management division. They studied September 11, the Oklahoma City bombing, and Columbine, and one thing she learned is that in a time of emergency, communication and planning are essential. The County Executive believes by creating this department that communication will be vastly improved. Also, homeland security funding has increased greatly in the past few years. They've found they have to be very aggressive to get any of those funds and want to increase their efforts in working in those groups and lobbying our region and the state to get some of those dollars.

Cummings went on to explain the fiscal note, which included a detailed summary of the positions involved and the corresponding savings. They believe the three divisions will fit well together, provide for better continuity and planning and operation. He stated by the Airport moving to the Public Works Department will not increase the levy. In fact, there will be a reduction of \$70,000 in the levy next year. Cummings and Bussler both explained how the area at the Communications Center will be remodeled to accommodate Emergency Management.

Carlson asked about the Airport Commission. Bussler said one option would be to leave it as an advisory committee, but the management function of the Airport would be under the Public Works Department. A long discussion by the committee continued.

Nilson said he has a problem with the Airport moving to Public Works. Right now the Airport is run by a commission, mostly made up of volunteers who fly or have an interest in flying. There is a real danger if that form of management is dissolved. Look how far the airport has come and how well it has done. To Nilson, that is the real Pandora's box. He stated he could not go along with abolishing the Airport Commission. N.Cummings said what they are looking for is a management restructuring, and this will provide a safety net for the airport. It is a much bigger operation now, and they feel the support that the Public Works Department can provide is necessary at this time.

Esler said to N.Cummings regarding the drive to create the Airport Commission, at the time it was not a levy reduction issue. The Airport is currently operating at a \$1/4 million levy effort, and it is never going to change. With the best efforts, it will always be levy supported. The Airport Commission was created to provide the Airport with a level of autonomy. It hires and fires its manager which is its key distinction. Carlson said he cannot support the ordinance because of the Airport Commission. **On the motion, the motion was defeated 5 – 1; Behrend voting yes.**

Motion: Carlson moved, second by Nilson, to recommend to the Executive Committee that the last RESOLVED paragraph be deleted (lines 38-40), and this issue be brought back for further discussion and consideration. Gundrum asked questions about the \$123,000 salary that the department head would be receiving as it is a very good salary. N.Cummings said there is a formal

process called the HAY system that is used to determine salaries. They also look for equity as to how positions are paid in other jurisdictions. **Motion carried 5 – 1; Behrend voting no.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-040 Approve Amendment to 2004 Airport Operating Budget to Authorize the Transfer of Funds from Airport Fund Balance to Airport Operating Fund for Purchase of a Rotary Snow Thrower

Markano and Perry were present. Markano stated the snow plowing contract will expire September 30, 2004, and there is no contract in place for the upcoming winter season. The grass-cutting contract will expire at the end of October, and there is no provision for renewal of the current contract. This ordinance authorizes the 2004 appropriation from the Airport Fund balance of \$180,000 for the purpose of acquiring a rotary snow thrower. The total cost of the equipment is estimated at \$480,000, of which \$300,000 would be provided through Federal General Aviation Entitlements administered by the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics. The Bureau would purchase the equipment for the county, and the county would pay the Bureau for its 37.5% share. The rotary snow thrower would be provided to a vendor as part of a grounds maintenance contract, and the vendor would be responsible for the operating and maintenance costs for the five-year life of the contract.

Motion: Nilson moved, second by Behrend, to approve Ordinance 159-O-040. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Discuss Tour on July 13, 2004 of County Building Located at 1120 Northview Road (and) Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-018 Dispose of Building at 1120 Northview Road (Ordinance tabled at meeting of 5/27/04)

Manke asked for comments regarding the tour. Nilson asked what is Health and Human Services' position? Do they want to use this building for a halfway house because it is a good idea? Manke said it could be used for people coming out of the group home which is next door. Copies of a preliminary estimate of improvement costs were distributed. Manke said some of the costs are estimated at the high end. He doesn't believe that \$36,500 would have to be spent on the masonry/mold remediation. The committee decided not to take the ordinance off the table.

Motion: Nilson moved, second by Swan, that the Public Works Committee agrees that the building at 1120 Northview Road is an asset and should be preserved and avenues should be explored as to its use. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Mader will be attending the Health and Human Services Committee meeting this afternoon at which time he will relate the wishes of the Public Works Committee.

Correspondence

Manke said the map on U.S. gasolines and Congressman Ryan's presentation at the County Board meeting on July 27 were very good.

Approve Minutes of July 8 and July 13, 2004

Motion: Nilson moved, second by Carlson, to approve the minutes of July 8 and July 13, 2004. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Report from Executive Committee Member for Meeting of July 12, 2004

Manke and Esler reviewed items that were discussed and/or considered.

Motion to adjourn: Carlson moved, second by Nilson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.
Motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodell L. Singert
Secretary

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